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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations, Thursday, February 14, 1935.

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Hello folks. Say, look here, I had no idea that so many of you like strawberries, that is I had no idea until in an unguarded moment at the close of my garden talk last Thursday I offered to send a strawberry bulletin to anybody who did not know how to grow this delicious early fruit for home use. Well sir, on Friday morning there was a regular snowstorm of postcards in my office, Saturday the storm was heavier but the storm did not reach its height until Monday, then we were snowed under. We've sort of shoveled paths and piled those postcard requests in stacks according to the time of their arrival and kind of digging out from under so that we can get those bulletins mailed out, and the requests are still coming so don't be surprised if we are a little slow in reaching yours.

Judging by the response to my talk last Thursday about some of the newer things to grow in your garden and the final reference to strawberries must have caught a lot of you folks kind of hungry for fresh fruits and vegetables from your gardens. Well you know a good appetite always does create interest in something good to eat and the best way to satisfy a good appetite is to grow a lot of choice fruits and vegetables to go along with our bread and meats and other foods. Today I want to take up what we might call "Unfinished Business" and mention a number of varieties of strawberries and some of the vegetables that are especially adapted for growing in the different sections and under special conditions.

Now if you will get a pencil and piece of note paper you can jot down the names as I give them. We'll take the strawberries first, and start with you folks down along the Gulf of Mexico, Florida and the sea-coast region of Georgia and South Carolina. The Klondike, and the Missionary are your best varieties, and incidentally these varieties are practically everbearing, or at least bear fruit over a long period in the southern part of the country. Now coming up to North Carolina, the higher parts of South Carolina, Northern Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and on westward to eastern Oklahoma the new Blakemore is becoming very popular. The Howard 17, sometimes called Premier, and the Missionary are two of the main varieties for this region and even the Klondike does fairly well. The new Blakemore was originated and introduced by workers here in the Department. It is a wonderful berry for the south central sections, rather firm and a good shipper, tart and excellent for preserving and has a splendid flavor when fully ripe.

The Howard 17 or Premier is grown all over the section north and east of the North Carolina - Virginia line, but we have two new ones for this district. These are the Dorsett and the Fairfax. Mr. George Darrow of our division originated these two splendid new varieties and picked them out of several hundred other new ones and sent them out for trial and they have made good. For Western New York and the Great Lakes region Howard 17, Dunlap and Gandy are most generally planted. Howard 17 is rather

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early, Dunlap is midseason and the Gandy is a late berry so by planting all three you can extend the period over which you have ripe berries. Howard 17, Dunlap and the Progressive which is an everbearing variety, are recommended for Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Dunlap and the Progressive seem to be best adapted for conditions in North and South Dakota also in Nebraska. Dunlap and Howard 17 are all right for Kansas and then when we get into Oklahoma we get back on the trail of States where the Klondike and the new Blakemore do well.

Just a word now about varieties of Asparagus for planting in your gardens. A number of years ago the older varieties of asparagus like Arguential and Conover's Colossal were giving a lot of trouble from a disease known as rust. To overcome this difficulty the Department workers created three new varieties known as the Washington, the Martha Washington and the Mary Washington, all three of which turned out to be rust resistant. I think that perhaps the Mary Washington is now the most popular variety of asparagus grown in the eastern half of the United States.

About those wilt resistant varieties of tomatoes, I think I have mentioned them so often that you must be familiar with them. The Break O'Day is a very productive early variety, highly resistant to wilt and somewhat resistant to leaf blights. The Pritchard is second early and very vigorous and produces a scarlet tomato. The third is the Marglobe which is perhaps just a little later than the Pritchard but is the most wonderful canning tomato ever introduced.

Now I think my time is about up and if nothing happens I will be with you again next week and we will consider the new yellows resistant strains of cabbage, and until then, so long.